

CITY OF CHICHESTER.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE STATE OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH

OF THE

CITY OF CHICHESTER

1944

BY

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Medical Officer of Health

CITY OF CHICHESTER

Public Health Department,
North Street,
Chichester.

August, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my third annual report on the health of the City of Chichester for the year 1944. This report is an interim one only in view of the present conditions and the need for strict economy in the use of paper. The present report is, therefore, definitely confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the health of the City during the year.

It will be appreciated that necessary arrangements have, of course, been made for the preservation of all essential records, so that after the present emergency a full report can be made dealing with the period over which only curtailed reports have been made.

The health of the City during 1944 has been maintained at its high standard which is very gratifying, as it had been felt that the special circumstances during the war period might seriously affect health conditions.

It is very evident that the nutritional state of the population has been maintained. The Ministry of Food, in consultation with the Ministry of Health, have undoubtedly made wise provision as regards the additional protective foods supplied, especially for expectant and nursing mothers and young children.

The scheme of the Ministry of Education for school meals and milk has proved itself a wise and effective scheme, and this has laid the foundation for a much wider extension of the provision of the necessities of life among the less favoured members of the community.

HEALTH STATISTICS.

For the first time since 1941 it is now permissible to include the Registrar General's estimated civilian population, which is, for 1944, 15,880 as compared with the 1939 population of 17,530.

It will be appreciated that the statistics supplied by the Registrar General, although computed as accurately as possible, must be accepted with some reservation because of the moving population during the war period, but they are as reliable as can be ascertained. Therefore, in considering the points which are brought to your notice, it must be understood that the rates per 1,000 population are not quite as accurate as in pre-war days.

It should also be understood that in a city with a small population the slightest variation, as shown in births and deaths, etc., will affect any calculation of rates to a considerable extent.

1. BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES:

There has been a slight decrease in births from 308 in 1943 to 285 in 1944, which shows a rate of 18.67 for 1943 as compared with 17.95 for 1944, per thousand population, and as compared with 17.6 for 1944 for England and Wales, which is comparably quite satisfactory.

It will be noted that there is a natural increase in population, i.e. the difference between births and deaths, of 72 (285 minus 213).

The illegitimates for 1944 were 17 and for 1943, 42.

2. DEATHS AND DEATH RATES:

There was a slight decrease in deaths from 220 in 1943 to 213 in 1944, which shows a rate of 13.45 per thousand for 1943 and 13.34 per thousand for 1944, as compared with 11.6 for 1944 for England and Wales.

(a) DEATH RATE FROM ALL FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS:

There was a slight increase in the deaths which were 8 in 1944 and 7 in 1943. The rate is 0.50 per thousand for 1944 as compared with 0.42 per thousand for 1943 and as compared with 0.627 per thousand for 1944 for England and Wales.

(b) MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE:

It is pleasing to be able to report that there was only one death in 1944 from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth.

(c) INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE:

There were 19 deaths in 1944 and 15 in 1943, which shows a rate of 66.66 in 1944 as compared with 48.7 in 1943 and as compared with 46 for England and Wales.

It will be noted that the few extra deaths give rise to a considerably increase in mortality rate, but from the death returns it is noted that the large majority of these infantile deaths occurred as a result of causes over which we have little or no control.

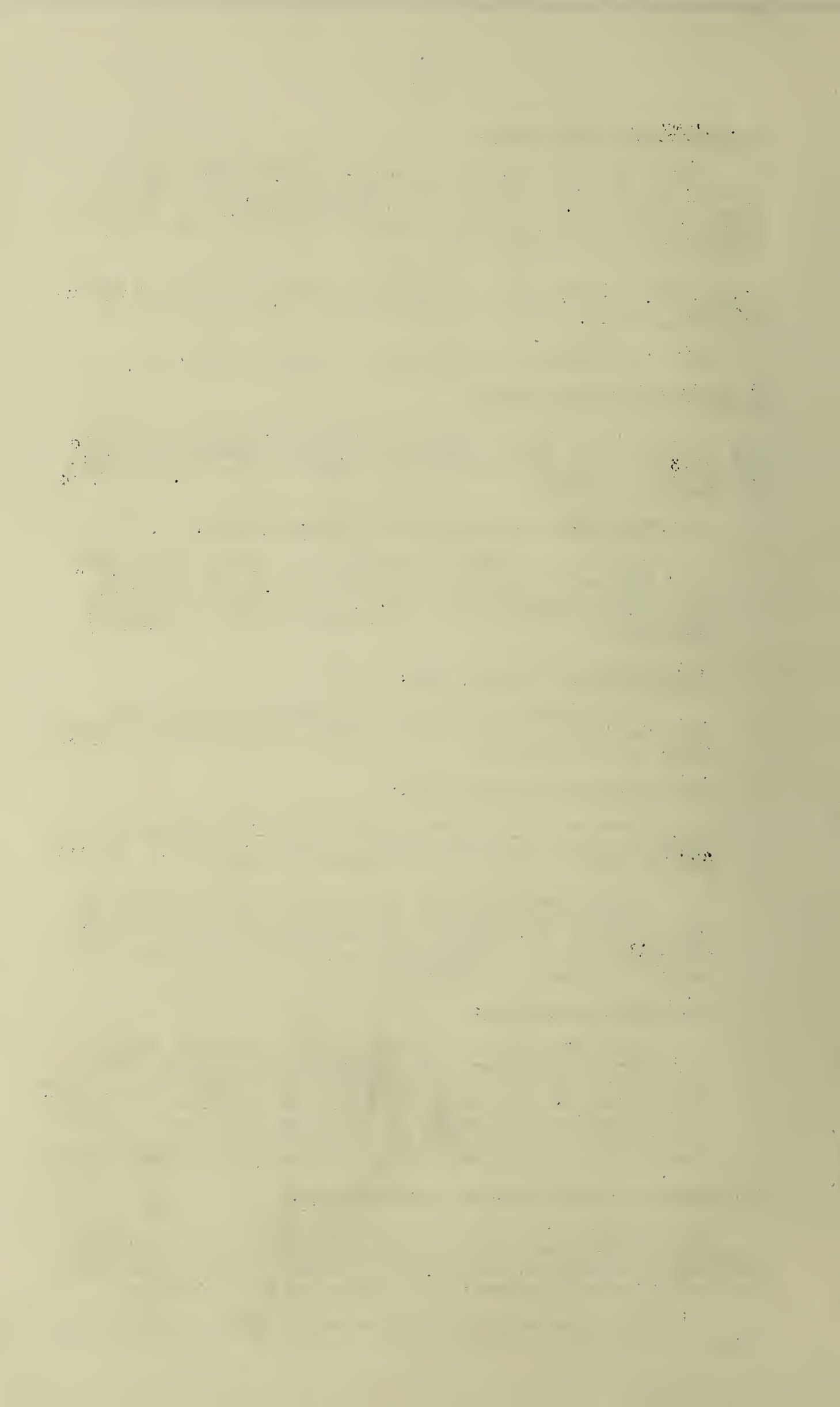
(d) CANCER DEATH RATE:

There has been an increase in the number of deaths from cancer, which were 34 in 1944 and 23 in 1943, but I hesitate to offer any explanation with the available information before me. It would now appear that provision for the early diagnosis and treatment of cancer will form an integral and most valuable part of the proposed co-ordinated hospital service as outlined in the Government's White Paper.

3. CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES:

Quite contrary to expectations there have been no serious epidemics which might have been anticipated because of the big movement of troops and evacuees, and in fact, during 1944, there has been a marked decrease in the number of notifications.

In 1944, there were 217 cases as compared with 272 cases in 1943.



It will be noted that there were only two cases of diphtheria and no deaths, and as far as it can be ascertained, neither of these cases had been artificially immunised.

There were the usual fluctuations in some types of infectious disease. For instance, there was an increase in scarlet fever from 44 cases in 1943 to 78 cases in 1944.

There was an increase in whooping cough from 16 cases in 1943 to 64 cases in 1944.

A very large decrease in measles occurred, from 119 cases in 1943 to 10 cases in 1944.

There was a decrease in diphtheria from 9 cases in 1943 to 2 cases in 1944.

There was an increase in cerebro-spinal fever from 2 cases in 1943 to 4 cases in 1944.

It must be pointed out that whenever cases of infectious disease occur in any of the hospitals within the City boundary, they are notified to the Health Department and have to be included in the City's returns irrespective of whether the cases are normally residents of the area or have been admitted to one of the City's hospitals from some other area. This was especially noticeable in the case of dysentery.

4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:

The records for diphtheria immunisation in the City are shown on a subsequent page, and it is pleasing to note that a total of 4129 children have been artificially immunised, and that it is estimated that 46.93 per cent. under 5 years of age, and 90.95 per cent. between the ages of 5 and 15 years of age have been protected.

There has been considerable propaganda, both nationally and locally, to increase the percentage of children protected, under the age of 5 years, and every effort has been made to establish contact between medical practitioners, nurses, and, the parents to obtain consent for the immunisation of their children. It is hoped that an increasing number of children will be treated in the near future.

It will be seen that there is a large discrepancy between the percentages in the two age groups of children who have been protected, and our most urgent problem is still how to obtain the consent of the parents for the children in the "under 5 group" to be treated, as they are not in any daily organised institution, such as a school, but it is hoped that in the future a larger number of children will be able to attend nursery schools and contact will be more readily made with the parents.

This notable discrepancy is common to all parts of the country and the saving of life and suffering among the younger members of the population continues to be prejudiced by the non-acceptance of the free treatment of the child, which is a wide world accepted achievement of protective medicine.

5. SCABIES AND VENEREAL DISEASE:

Special notes are contained in the body of this report which show that full facilities are available for appropriate treatment.

6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:

Most valuable work has been carried out by Mr. Nash, and it will be noted that in the special report on a subsequent page a large amount of meat has been condemned and destroyed. In addition, a considerable amount of food sampling has been carried out by the Inspector of Weights and Measures.

7. HOUSING:

The Council has given very serious consideration to the provision of suitable houses, and special attention has been paid to an effective lay-out and various types of houses. The scheme on the Whyke Estate provides for at least 200 houses. When completed, there is no doubt that this will be one of the best municipal estates.

Excellent progress was rapidly made in the repair of any war damaged houses and a survey of empty houses in the City has been carried out to estimate the availability of premises considered suitable to afford accommodation for inadequately housed families.

8. MOSQUITO CONTROL:

Several conferences have been held with the various coast-line authorities in West Sussex, also with Portsmouth, Southampton, Gosport, Fareham and Havant, at meetings held at Havant in conjunction with Mr. J. F. Marshall, C.B.E., Director of British Mosquito Control Institute, Hayling Island. A visit was also made to the Ministry of Health for consultation.

A survey was carried out in the City to estimate the severity of any mosquito infestation which might be present, and I am happy to report that the results showed that there is no cause whatever for anxiety and any measures which might be necessary at any time, will be carried out in the most effective modern method.

9. RODENT CONTROL:

During the year, some complaints were received, and reports that rats had been seen on different premises, as a result of which 280 premises were inspected and 174 infestations dealt with.

Details of this work are given later in the Report.

10. THE CARE OF WOMEN WORKERS' CHILDREN:

During the war period, there has been a day-time nursery functioning at Oaklands Park, with accommodation for 50 children. This was administered by the West Sussex County Council through a local committee.

Most excellent work has been carried out, and, apart from ordinary visits, the children have been medically examined once a month.

Evacuated children between the ages of 2 and 5 years were accepted, and any local children of the same age group whose mothers were working in the town were also received.

In many parts of the country, there is still a demand for day nurseries, and I have no doubt that this important matter will receive sympathetic consideration in the future.

11. WATER SUPPLIES:

The water supplies of the district maintained their very high standard, and I am deeply indebted to Mr. F. R. Diinnis, the Water Engineer, for his unstinted co-operation.

Further details will be found in the body of the Report.

12. SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

As indicated in my Report for 1943, the modernising of the Sewage Works, consequent on the increasing population, is a matter of urgency, and I am confident that the appropriate Committee will give full consideration to this matter at the earliest possible date.

During the year, an exceptionally large amount of work has been carried out by the staff of the Health Department, and I again wish to place on record my appreciation of the invaluable assistance given me by Mr. Nash, also by the Chief Clerk, Miss Putman, and the other members of the staff of the Public Health Department.

To the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, I am greatly indebted for the encouragement and sympathy under most difficult conditions, and I would express my keen appreciation of the most close co-operation of the Town Clerk and the Chief Officials of the other departments.

I also wish to record my appreciation of the co-operation shown me by the General Practitioners, and, what is often lost sight of, the invaluable contribution of the general public.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

H. M. AYRES

Medical Officer of Health.

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem.

2. The second part is devoted to a detailed analysis of the results.

3. The third part is devoted to a discussion of the implications of the results.

4. The fourth part is devoted to a discussion of the conclusions.

5. The fifth part is devoted to a discussion of the future work.

6. The sixth part is devoted to a discussion of the references.

7. The seventh part is devoted to a discussion of the appendix.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.1. General Statistics.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	2,869.
Population (Census 1921).	...	...	...	...	12,413.
Population (Census 1931).	...	...	...	...	13,912.
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population (1944)...	...	...	...	...	15,880.
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	2,647.
Number of inhabited houses (1931)	...	...	...	...	2,869.
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	2,721.
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	3,187.
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£159,936.
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£620.

2. Social Conditions & Occupations.

The City is chiefly a residential district, the outlying parts are agricultural, and there are no occupations which have a definite prejudicial affect on health.

3. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

<u>Births</u> -	<u>Ttl.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Fem.</u>	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated Population 17.95.
<u>Live Births</u> -				
Legitimate	268	146	122	
Illegitimate	17	8	9	
	285	154	131	
<u>Still Births</u> -				Rate per 1000 total (live & still births) births 15.34.
Legitimate	5	4	1	
Illegitimate	1	1	-	
	6	5	1	
<u>Deaths</u> -	213	98	115	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population 13.47.

Total number of deaths occurring in Public Institutions 98.
(percentage of total deaths 46).

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth -

From sepsis ... 0.
From other causes ... 1.

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age ... 19.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births 66.66.

There were 268 legitimate children born and 17 deaths, therefore
the death rate per 1000 is. ... 63.43.

There were 17 illegitimate children born and 3 died, therefore
the death rate per 1000 is. ... 17.64.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... 34.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... 0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... 2.

Deaths from Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years of age) ... 4.

STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth Rate	...	...	...	17.6 (16.5).
Death Rate	...	...	...	11.6 (12.1).
Infant Mortality Rate.	...	...	...	46 (49).

(The figures in brackets represent the rates for the year 1943).

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following are details of cases notified during 1944, showing in the age analysis columns the final figures after subsequent re-diagnosis:-

	R E S I D E N T S														
	Originally Notified	Age analysis (after correction of diagnosis)													
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 plus	TOTAL	
Scarlet Fever	78	2	-	2	4	7	48	8	1	5	-	1	-	78	
Diphtheria	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	
Whooping Cough	64	7	7	9	9	7	18	4	-	2	-	1	-	64	
Measles	10	-	2	1	-	1	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	10	
Acute Polionyelitis	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Typhoid Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Acute Pneumonia	42	2	1	1	2	1	2	-	3	8	7	4	11	42	
Dysentery	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	4	
Cerebro-spinal Fever	4	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
Erysipelas	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	3	
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	6	
TOTALS	247	17	10	14	15	19	75	17	6	22	9	7	15	217	

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Contd.).TUBERCULOSIS.

Fifteen new cases (compared with 10 in 1943) were added to the register during 1944:-

Pulmonary Males	7	Non-pulmonary Males	1
" Females	5	" " Females	2
	<u>12</u>		<u>3</u>

There were 8 deaths from tuberculosis during the year, 6 from pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

This gives a death rate of 0.50 per thousand of the population.

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register at the 31st December, 1944, was 151 as compared with 167 at the 31st December, 1943.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

As in previous years, swabs for examination for the presence of K.L.B. or Haemolytic streptococci, and specimens for typhoid bacilli have been submitted to Dr. F. Standish for examination during 1944, both by the Health Department and by general practitioners.

The number of examinations of swabs and specimens submitted was as follows:-

<u>Specimens.</u>	<u>No. submitted for Examination.</u>
(1) Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli.	28
(2) Swabs for Scarlet Fever.	81
(3) Specimens for Dysentery.	1
(4) Specimens for Meningitis.	<u>1</u>
	<u>111</u>

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year 1944, 226 children have been inoculated against diphtheria and approximately 46.93 per cent. of the children under five years of age and 90.95 per cent. of the children between the ages of five and fifteen years have been immunised.

Diphtheria immunisation is purely voluntary and completely free of cost.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

The City Isolation Hospital has 30 beds. There are separate blocks for scarlet fever and diphtheria, together with a modern cell block. It is supported wholly by the City Council, but admits patients from other areas by agreement.

The following cases of infectious diseases were admitted during 1944:-

Scarlet Fever ...	...	72
Diphtheria ...	...	10
Chicken Pox ...	...	4
Whooping Cough...	...	2
Erysipelas ...	...	4
Meningitis ...	...	2
Mumps ...	...	3
Pneumonia ...	...	1
Measles ...	...	6
Typhoid Fever ...	...	-
Dysentery ...	...	-
German Measles...	...	5
Observation ...	...	4

113

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.(1) TUBERCULOSIS.

There is no change from the previous year with regard to the treatment of tuberculosis. Cases are admitted either to Aldingbourne House (accommodation 70 persons) or to a ward at Worthing Isolation Hospital, Swandean (accommodation 12 beds), whilst surgical cases are admitted to St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester, to the Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate, or to the Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital, Alton, Hants, (for children).

(2) MATERNITY.

The County Council arranged for resident and evacuated expectant mothers to be admitted to:-

	<u>No. of Beds.</u>
(a) Brighton Hospital for Women.	2
(b) Southlands Hospital, Shoreham.	20 (or more if available)
(c) Worthing Hospital Maternity Home.	5 (shared with Worthing B.)
(d) Horsham Maternity Unit.	18
(e) St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester.	6 (4 for emergency cases)
(f) Improvised Maternity Homes at Haslemere, Hindhead and Woking.	30

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL (Contd.).(3) CHILDREN.

The County Council arranges whenever necessary for the admission of children under the age of 12 months to the Alexandra Hospital for Children, Brighton. No cases were received there during the year from this area.

(4) SMALLPOX.

The County Council's reservation of two beds in the Brighton Small Pox Hospital at Fulking remains unchanged.

(5) MENTAL.

The Graylingwell Hospital has an accommodation of 1,099 beds plus 300 E.M.S. beds.

(6) GENERAL.

St. Richard's Hospital has an accommodation of 578 beds which are available for general cases.

HOSPITALS NOT SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY
OR THE COUNTY COUNCIL, BUT AVAILABLE FOR PATIENTS
RESIDENT IN THE DISTRICT.

The Royal West Sussex Hospital with 114 beds plus 220 E.M.S. beds.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- A. For infectious diseases two motor ambulances are provided by the City Council and kept at the City Isolation Hospital.
- B. For non-infectious or accident cases, three motor ambulances and a sitting-case car are provided which are owned by the local branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Council contribute £50 per annum as a subscription towards the cost of running the ambulances. The service rendered is excellent.

CLINIC & TREATMENT CENTRES.A. MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (consultation and treatment) is situated at Chapel Street under the control of the West Sussex County Council.

B. SCHOOL CLINICS.

School clinics have been held as during the previous year and the service has been extended to evacuee school-children.

C. TUBERCULOSIS CLINICS.

These have been held at Chapel Street, Chichester, as in previous years.

D. VENEREAL DISEASES.

The County Council's arrangements for clinics to be held at Brighton, Worthing and Portsmouth are unchanged.

For men and women patients, General Practitioners'

Clinics are held at Horsham and at St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester.

E. PSYCHIATRIC OUT-PATIENTS' CLINIC.

This Clinic is held at the Royal West Sussex Hospital weekly at which Dr. Joshua Carse, the Medical Superintendent of Graylingwell Hospital, is the Nonorary Consulting Psychiatrist.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

1. GENERAL.

This work is carried out by the Chichester District Nursing Association, working in conjunction with the West Sussex County Council.

2. INFECTIOUS DISEASES, MEASLES, ETC.

Nurses attached to the District Nursing Association visit cases of measles on occasion when required, and the City contribute £30 per annum for their services.

WATER.

26 samples of water were taken by the Sanitary Inspector for bacteriological examination by the Public Analyst of the water direct from the well at Fishbourne Waterworks, the results showing that organisms of the Coli group gave negative results in 100 ml.

26 samples of water were also taken by the Sanitary Inspector from the water which had been chlorinated, from the supply at private houses in the City, which also gave similar results.

2 samples of water were taken for chemical analysis, which showed the total hardness of the water to average 16.8 grains per gallon, and hardness (after boiling) averaged 3.6 grains per gallon.

The result of these examinations shows the water to be both chemically and bacteriologically satisfactory, and perfectly safe for drinking purposes.

All workmen engaged in the Water Department are submitted to a blood test for enteric fever before they are engaged.

There is a sufficient supply of water at the Waterworks at Fishbourne about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the City, with a storage reservoir at Lavant of 2,000,000 gallons capacity, but the supply to the City in the day-time is direct from the well, 115 feet deep.

The supply is constant, not more than 20 houses in the City are supplied by shallow wells. These houses are farm houses and in such a position that they are unable to be connected with the town supply at present.

The Council have now under construction at Funtington another well and waterworks which will be an additional supply for the City.

HOUSING.Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority.

The Council own 531 houses	...	...	...
Under the Additinal Powers Act, 1919	...	...	...	22
Under the Housing Act, 1923	...	...	...	12
Under the Housing Act, 1924	...	...	...	333
Under the Housing Act, 1930	...	...	...	76
Under the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	42
By other powers	...	...	...	46

Certain condemned houses have been requisitioned by the Council and made temporarily habitable.

No statutory action has been taken during the year.

There has been considerable difficulty during the year in the matter of labour and material, but every effort to maintain this important work has been continued, and 329 visits have been made, notwithstanding the large amount of extra work which my department have been called upon to carry out.

The details of this work are omitted from this report but are always available.

POST WAR HOUSING.

This matter is receiving serious consideration by the City Council, and plans are prepared for the erection of 200 houses on the Whyke Estate.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk sampling has been carried out as in previous years, and visits have been paid to cowsheds, dairies, bakehouses, stores and places where food is prepared and sold. The details of the foregoing inspections are available.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is the Officer appointed under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations of 1924. As part of the war-time arrangements for the distribution of meat, slaughtering for not only the City, but the adjacent areas, has been concentrated into the City of Chichester.

The Ministry of Food have requisitioned three slaughter-houses in which to carry out this work, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector regularly visits these slaughter-houses at the time of slaughter or on completion, and personally inspects all animals and carcasses, which has increased the work in my department very considerably.

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year 1944 was 14933, made up as follows:-

2785 Cattle.
6334 Sheep.
4469 Calves.
1345 Pigs.
<u>14,933</u>
14,933

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (Contd.).

The following have been condemned and destroyed:-

233 Cattle.
32 Calves.
25 Sheep.
35 Pigs.

35 tons, 14 cwt. 94 lbs. of Meat and Offals.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Pigs	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs
Number killed.	1345	951	1834	4469	6334
Number inspected.	"	"	"	"	"
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	22	-	35	15	25
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	50	-	460	4	109
Percentage of the numb- er part-affected with diseases other than tuberculosis.	3.71	-	25.62	0.08	1.72
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	13	2	196	17	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	80	-	784	3	-
Percentage of the numb- er inspected affected with tuberculosis.	6.91	0.21	53.43	0.44	-

The Butchers' shops and vehicles are kept under observation and are satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT 1937 AND SHOPS ACT 1934. EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN
BYE-LAWS AND EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS.

Visits have been paid in accordance with the scope of these Acts and employment cards issued to suitable children.

RATS & MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT OF 1919.

As a result of the campaign of the Ministry of Food, 225 reports of "rats seen" were received, 280 premises inspected, and 174 infestations dealt with, with an estimated total of 1650 rats killed.

I N D E X.

	<u>Page.</u>		<u>Page.</u>
Ambulance Facilities ...	11	Scabies ...	3,9
Area ...	6	Scarlet Fever ...	7,10
Bacteriological Facilities	8	Sewage Disposal ...	5
Births and Birth Rate ..	2,6	Shops Act, 1934 ...	14
Cancer ...	6	Slaughtering ...	13,14
Care of Women Workers:		Social Conditions .	6
Children ...	4	Still Births ...	6
Clinics ...	11,12	Treatment Centres .	11,12
Deaths and Death Rate .	2,6	Tuberculosis ...	8,10
Deaths from Diarrhoea		Venereal Diseases .	3,11
(under 2 years) ...	6	Vital Statistics ..	6
Diphtheria ...	7,10	Water ...	5,12
Diphtheria Immunisation.	3,8	Whooping Cough ...	6,7,10
Factories and Workplaces	14		
Foods, Meat and Other ..	4,13		
General Statistics ...	1,6		
Hospitals ...	10		
Houses (Inhabited) ...	6		
Housing ...	4,13		
Infantile Mortality ...	6		
Infectious Diseases	2,7,8,10		
Infectious Diseases			
Hospital ...	10		
Laboratory Facilities ..	8		
Maternity Hospitals ...	10		
Measles ...	6,7,10		
Meat and Other Foods ...	13,14		
Milk ...	13		
Mosquito Control. ...	4		
Nursing in the Home ...	12		
Population ...	6		
Psychiatric Out-Patients:			
Clinic ...	12		
Rateable Value ...	6		
Rats & Mice Destruction			
Act ...	4,14		

